

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please add Figure 5 provided in the Appendix attached hereto.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 15, 16 and 21-23 are pending in this application. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following Remarks.

1. The Office action objects to the drawings asserting that the feature of the different thickness of Claim 3 must be shown. By this Amendment, a new Figure 5 showing the bumper beam with the different thickness is attached hereto. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

2. The Office action rejects Claims 1-2 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Golze et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,779,502, hereinafter “Golze”), Claims 1-3 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Carpenter (U.S. Patent No. 5,154,462, hereinafter “Carpenter”) and Claims 1-3 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Himsl (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,441, hereinafter “Himsl”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *See MPEP §2131*. Contrary to the Office Action that all of the elements of Claim 1 are disclosed in Golze, Carpenter and/or Himsl, at least the feature a first portion having a first end and a second end, and a second portion comprising a second material having a first end abutting said first end of said first portion and a second end abutting said second end of said first portion, is not disclosed, taught or suggested in Golze, Carpenter and/or Himsl, so the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

For at least this reason, Claim 1 is allowable over the applied art. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7, which depend from Claim 1, are likewise allowable over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office action asserts that Golze, Carpenter and Himsl discloses ends abutted or joined because the claims are open ended as to the exact location of “end.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

By definition, the term “end” is defined as “the extreme or last part lengthwise; the terminal unit of something spatial that is marked off by units.” *See Merriam-Webster Online*

Dictionary attached hereto. The specification and drawings does not use a definition that is a different than the ordinary meaning of the term “end.” As shown in Figures 1-5, the end of the first portion 12 abuts the end of the second portion 14, unlike the overlapping arrangement of the applied art.

For at least this additional reason, Claim 1 is allowable over the applied art. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7, which depend from Claim 1, are likewise allowable over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested

3. The Office action rejects Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Golze in view of Stewart et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,000,738, hereinafter “Stewart”), Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over any one of Golze, Carpenter or Himsl in view of Glance (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,991, hereinafter “Glance”), and Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over any one of Golze, Carpenter or Himsl. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 4 and 5 depend from Claim 1, which specifies, *inter alia*, a first portion having a first end and a second end, and a second portion comprising a second material having a first end abutting the first end of the first portion and a second end abutting the second end of the first portion.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Golze, Carpenter, Himsl and Stewart does not disclose, teach or suggest all the claim limitations, as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that at least the feature of a first portion having a first end and a second end, and a second portion comprising a second material having a first end abutting said first end of said first portion and a second end abutting said second end of said first portion, is not disclosed, taught or suggested in the applied art. Because the combination of the cited references does not teach all the claim limitations, as recited in Claim 1, the Office action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *See MPEP §2143.*

For at least this reason, Claims 4, 5 and 6 are allowable over the applied art, taken singly or in combination. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

4. The Office action rejects Claims 8-10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Carpenter or Himsl in view of Sturrus (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,594, hereinafter “Sturrus”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8-10 and 15 depend from Claim 1. As mentioned above, there is no mention in Carpenter or Himsl of at least the feature of a first portion having a first end and a second end, and a second portion comprising a second material having a first end abutting the first end of the first portion and a second end abutting the second end of the first portion, as recited in Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no mention in Sturrus of at least this feature, and thus Sturrus adds nothing to overcome the shortcomings of Carpenter and Himsl. Because the combination of the cited references does not teach all the claim limitations, as recited in Claim 1, the Office action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *See MPEP §2143.*

5. The Office action rejects Claims 16 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Golze or Carpenter in view of Sturrus. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 16 specifies, *inter alia*, a bumper beam comprising a first portion having a generally C-shaped cross-section and comprising a first material, and including a back and two legs extending orthogonally therefrom, and a second portion comprising a second material and including two generally C-shaped sections, each C-shaped section having two legs and a back positioned between the two legs. The second portion further includes a connecting segment positioned between said two generally C-shaped sections, wherein said first portion is attached to the second portion, and wherein the first material of the first portion has a different material property than the second material of the second portion.

It is respectfully submitted that at least this feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested in the applied art, taken singly or in combination.

Independent Claim 21 specifies, *inter alia*, a bumper beam comprising a first portion having a generally C-shaped cross-section and comprising a first material, and including a

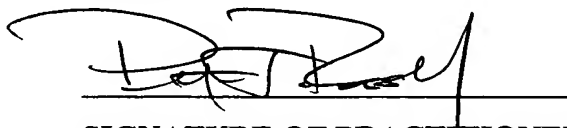
back and two legs extending orthogonally therefrom, and a second portion comprising a second material, and including two generally C-shaped sections integrally joined to each other, each C-shaped section having two legs and a back positioned between the two legs, wherein one of the two legs of one of the two generally C-shaped sections is integral with one of the two legs of the other one of the two generally C-shaped sections to form one extended segment between each C-shaped section, wherein the first portion is attached to the second portion, and wherein the first material of the first portion has a different material property than the second material of the second portion. It is respectfully submitted that at least this feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested in the applied art, taken singly or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance; the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge deposit account number 50-3145 in the name of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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Thesaurus

51 entries found for **end**. The first 10 are listed below.
 To select an entry, click on it. For more results, [click here](#).

end[1,noun]	▲
end[2,verb]	■
end[3,adjective]	■
end[4,transitive verb]	■
be-all and end-all	■
bitter end[1,noun]	▼



Main Entry: ¹**end**

Pronunciation: 'end

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English *ende*, from Old English; akin to Old High German *enti* end, Latin *ante* before, Greek *anti* against

1 a : the part of an area that lies at the boundary **b (1) :** a point that marks the extent of something **(2) :** the point where something ceases to exist <world without *end*> **c :** the extreme or last part lengthwise : **TIP** **d :** the terminal unit of something spatial that is marked off by units **e :** a player stationed at the extremity of a line (as in football)

2 a : cessation of a course of action, pursuit, or activity **b :**

DEATH, DESTRUCTION **c (1) :** the ultimate state **(2) :**

RESULT, ISSUE

3 : something incomplete, fragmentary, or undersized : **REMNANT**

4 a : an outcome worked toward : **PURPOSE** <the *end* of poetry is to be poetry -- R. P. Warren> **b :** the object by virtue of or for the sake of which an event takes place

5 a : a share in an undertaking <kept your *end* up> **b :** a particular operation or aspect of an undertaking or organization <the sales *end* of the business>

6 : something that is extreme : **ULTIMATE** -- used with *the*

7 : a period of action or turn in any of various sports events (as archery or lawn bowling)

synonym see **INTENTION**

- **end ed** /'en-d&d/ *adjective*

- **in the end** : **AFTER ALL**, **ULTIMATELY**

- **no end** : **EXCEEDINGLY**

- **on end** : without a stop or letup <it rained for days *on*

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Thesaurus

Main Entry: **abut** ˈbʌt

Pronunciation: &- 'b&t

Function: *verb*Inflected Form(s): **abut ted**; **abut ting**

Etymology: Middle English *abuten*, partly from Old French *aboter* to border on, from *a-* (from Latin *ad-*) + *bout* blow, end, from *boter* to strike; partly from Old French *abuter* to come to an end, from *a-* + *but* end, aim -- more at
<SUP>1butt, <SUP>4butt

intransitive senses

1 : to touch along a border or with a projecting part <land *abuts* on the road>

2 a : to terminate at a point of contact **b** : to lean for support
transitive senses

1 : to border on**2** : to cause to abutFor **More Information on "abut"** go to [Britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)Get the **Top 10 Search Results for "abut"**Pronunciation Symbols

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